<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>:
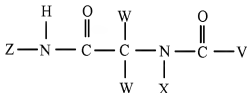
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.
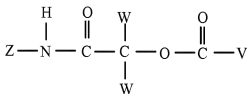
<u>**Listing of Claims:**</u>

1.   (Previously Presented)   A compound of the formula
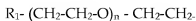

formula (Ia)

or

formula (Ib)

in which

the residues V, W, X and Z are in each case, independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms and/or V, W and/or X is/are hydrogen, wherein at least one of the residues V, W, X and/or Z contains a binding group Y and the residues V, W, X and Z together comprise at least two residues which have formula (IIa)
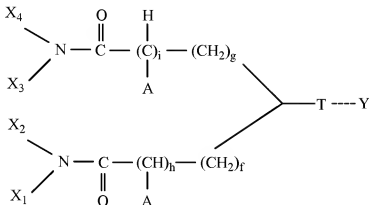
R_1- $(CH_2$-CH_2-$O)_n$ - CH_2-CH_2.

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

2.   (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the binding group Y is selected from groups which are able to covalently bind to an amino group, a thiol group, a carboxyl group, a guanidine group, a carbonyl group, a hydroxyl group, a heterocycle, a C-nucleophilic group, a C-electrophilic group, a phosphate or a sulfate, or are able to form a chelate or a complex with metals or are able to bond to silicon-containing surfaces.

3.   (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound comprises at least three residues which have formula (IIa).

4.   (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z is branched and comprises at least two residues which have formula (IIa).

5.   (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z additionally comprises a targeting group.

6.   (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A compound having the formula (XIV)
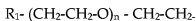
in which

h and i are, on each occasion independently, 0 or 1,

g and f are, on each occasion independently, an integer between 0 and 10,

A is, on each occasion, H or -(CO)-NX_2, and

X_1, X_2, X_3 and X_4, and also X, have, in each case independently of each other, the meanings given

above for X, where formula (XIV) comprises at least two residues which have formula (IIa)

R_1- (CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$ - CH_2-CH_2-

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can

contain 5 heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

7.   (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A method for preparing a compound as claimed in

claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formulae

X' – NH$_2$ (IV)

(W')$_2$C=O   (V)

Z' –NC   (VI),

and

V' –COOH   (VII)

are reacted with each other, as starting compounds, in a multicomponent reaction, where V', W', X' and Z' are, in each case independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can optionally contain heteroatoms and/or V', W' and/or X' are hydrogen, where at least one of the residues V', W', X' and Z' contains a binding group Y and where the residues V', W', X' and Z' together comprise at least two residues which have formula (IIa)
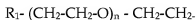
R$_1$- (CH$_2$-CH$_2$-O)$_n$ - CH$_2$-CH$_2$-
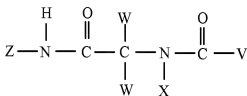
formula (IIa)

in which

R$_1$ is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

8.   (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of the residues V', W', X' and/or Z' contains at least one further functionality selected from the group consisting of NH$_2$, C=O, NC and COOH.

9.   (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a biopharmaceutical, pharmaceutical and/or synthetic active compound.

10.   (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a surface and/or a biocatalyst.

11.   (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to an enzyme.

12.   (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to medicinal products or adjuvants for administering active compounds.

13.   (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

14.   (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

15.   (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical for treating cancer or coronary diseases, metabolic diseases, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

16.   (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a substance library, wherein at least two different compounds as claimed in claim 1 are prepared using the method as claimed in claim 7 or 8.

17.   (Withdrawn) A substance library which comprises at least two different compounds of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1.
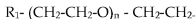
18.   (Withdrawn) A kit which comprises:

(a)   at least one compound as claimed in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

(b)   buffer solutions and, where appropriate;

(c)   standard proteins and/or means for purifying conjugates which have been formed together with the compound from (a).

19.   (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

20.   (Withdrawn) A diagnostic composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

21.   (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula

$$Z-\overset{\overset{\displaystyle H}{|}}{N}-\overset{\overset{\displaystyle O}{\|}}{C}-\overset{\overset{\displaystyle W}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle W}{|}}{C}}-\overset{\overset{\displaystyle W}{|}}{\underset{\underset{\displaystyle X}{|}}{N}}-\overset{\overset{\displaystyle O}{\|}}{C}-V$$

formula (Ia)

in which

the residues V, W, X and Z are in each case, independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms and/or V, W and/or X is/are hydrogen, wherein at least one of the residues V, W, X and/or Z contains a binding group Y and in that the residues V, W, X and Z together comprise at least two residues which are terminal groups and which have formula (IIa)

R_1- $(CH_2$-CH_2-$O)_n$ - CH_2-CH_2.

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.